

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, April 11, 1996

Published Since 1877

Caregiving roles often reversed with aging parents

NASHVILLE (BP) — Children who once received the tender care of their parents today are finding themselves responsible for their aging parents.

In the United States today, a caregiving crisis is exploding.

As Christians, they are commanded to honor and obey their parents. But what happens when a parent gets Alzheimer's disease or becomes cranky with the natural aches and pains of aging? What happens when the parent is forgetful or confused and can't seem to remember what happened two hours ago?

How do adult children balance the needs of the parents with the needs of their spouse and children? How does a church care for the aging portion of its members?

A caregiving crisis is exploding.

"Caregiving to aging parents affects all of us," said Debra Bruce of Jacksonville, Fla., co-author of *My Parent, My Turn*, recently released by the Broadman & Holman publishing arm of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Her coauthor is Harris McIlwain, a board-certified gerontologist from Tampa, Fla.

"Like raising a child, caregiving has no 'manual' to tell you what to do when a parent seems forgetful or depressed or fails to take her medication or bathe," said Bruce, a pastor's wife and author of several Christian books, including *Reclaiming Your Family: 7 Ways to Gain Control Over What Goes On in Your Home*. Bruce and her husband Robert also are authors of *Becoming Spiritual Soul Mates with Your Child*, released in April by Broadman & Holman.

According to U.S. Census

Bureau reports, Americans 85 and older are the fastest-growing segment of the country's population, now representing 1.2% of its citizens. Unfortunately, they also are the poorest and the sickest segment.

In 1900 there were 3 million Americans 65 and older in the United States, or about 4% of the population; by 1991, the number of seniors had increased to about 31.8 million. The United States has more older adults than the entire population of Canada.

Bruce explains she and McIlwain wrote the book to give the facts along with practical and Christian advice. "Our goal through the book is to allow the parent to remain independent and 'age-in-place' for as long as she can, helping her to make the home a safe environment," Bruce said.

Education, prevention, and balance are the keys to preventing disasters before they happen, Bruce said.

"Education is the key to maintaining balance," Bruce said. No one can do everything perfectly; they have to be satisfied with being "good enough," she said.

"To achieve balance in your life as caregiver, it is important to get in touch with your feelings," Bruce and McIlwain wrote. "Talk about the pressures of caregiving with your spouse, a close friend, your pastor, or a mental health counselor. Nothing can be clearly resolved without open discussions."

Bruce and McIlwain caution caregivers to realize negative feelings are normal. There is no relationship immune to anger or resentment.

"Balance must be achieved to protect yourself and your

immediate family," she said.

The promise to "honor your mother and father" extends to being there during all parts of life, especially during the senior years, said McIlwain, who underscored the need of giving every person

dignity, no matter what their health or situation.

"Aging is not easy, but knowing this ahead of time, you can make changes in her home so that life will be easier," Bruce said.

The church has an obligation to

care for its elderly members, Bruce added.

"The church is the key to caring for the many elderly who live far away from family members," Bruce said, noting such ministry is much-needed "right now."

Baptists offer aid to Russian girl stranded by family's twin losses

DUNLAP, Tenn. (BP) — A 13-year-old Russian girl living in Tennessee has experienced enough personal tragedy in the last few months to last a lifetime.

Fortunately, Olga Polyakova also has seen the love of Christ at work thanks to members of several Sequatchie Valley Association churches and the community at large who have rallied around her.

Earlier this year Olga's father was killed in an automobile accident in Georgia.

After the accident, Olga and her mother, Marianna, moved to the United States because that had been a wish of her father. Marianna went to work for a cleaning company and was assigned to Dunlap, Tenn. The mother and daughter moved to the area and, though neither spoke English, began attending First Church, said pastor Tom Gholson.

The two were beginning to get settled. Olga had been placed in a fourth-grade class at Griffith Elementary School so she could begin to learn the English language.

On March 14, however, the family fell victim to tragedy once again.

Olga's mother was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver, leaving Olga in a foreign land with no family. She did have friends, however.

The community has surrounded Olga and enveloped her with love, Gholson said. "The town has really responded from the heart. We have been moved and saddened by this."

Area residents financed Marianna's funeral at a local funeral home. Approximately 200 people attended the funeral, though most did not know Marianna, said Gholson, who along with Ronnie Grooms, pastor of Cartwright Church, assisted with the funeral which was conducted by a Greek Orthodox minister

from Chattanooga. The Polyakovas had attended an Orthodox church in Russia.

The funeral crowd included several Russian families from Chattanooga, Cleveland, Tenn., and Dalton, Ga., who heard about the tragedy and attended even though they did not know the family, Gholson said. A meal was served at the church following the funeral.

Gholson noted some of the Russians seemed shocked at the outpouring of love to Olga. "That made an impression on the Russians," he said.

Since the tragedy, members from First, Cartwright and Ewtonville churches, along with others in the community, have helped financially and spiritually.

Olga was placed in temporary foster care with Frank and Pamela Ryle who are members of First Church. She is now living with her teacher, Pam Kiper, a member of Ewtonville Church.

The pastor noted many people have wanted to help but simply did not know what to do so they have given money and moral support. A fund for Olga was established at a local bank.

Olga, who turned 13 just 15 days after her mother's death, has continued to attend church.

Her future in Dunlap, however, is uncertain. Gholson said. There is a possibility she could be adopted by a local family or she may be placed with a Russian family in another area. The Tennessee Department of Human Services will make that decision, Gholson said.

Despite her young age, Olga is well aware of what has happened, the pastor observed. "At the funeral it tugged at your heart to see what this 12-year-old is facing — losing two parents in a land where she is alone without family. Just to see that look of sadness on her face was overwhelming," Gholson said.

Deacons' teammates

There are training opportunities for almost every position of responsibility in the church, but conference leader Beverly Sheffield believes at least one important group of teammates is often overlooked — deacons' wives. "Usually they and their husbands are the busiest people in the church. Wives really want to do what the church wants them to do," said Sheffield, who has been leading deacons' wives conferences for eight years. Her husband Bob is deacon ministry consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. Beverly contributed to the book, *Help! I'm a Deacon's Wife* (Convention Press). "As a couple, (deacons and their wives) can minister more effectively, but the wife also needs a strong sense of who she is so she can minister through her own uniqueness," Beverly pointed out. The middle-school computer teacher offered 1 Timothy 3:11 as a positive picture of the role of a deacon's wife: (1) Worthy of respect and serious about the Lord's work; (2) careful not to gossip; (3) self-controlled; and (4) trustworthy and reliable. "To me it's a very high honor for someone to say you're dependable," she said.

Balkan answer

Baptists in the war-torn Balkans often disagree on the politics of the region, but they are of one accord when they talk of Christ as their only hope. "When anybody says we have 'occupied' an area, it means we have occupied ourselves, because my ancestors have been on these lands for 400 years," contended Dane Vidovic, a Serbian Baptist currently directing a student ministry in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, referring to his hometown that is now considered part of Croatia. "Yes, but this was always Croatian territory, ever since the 11th century. The Serbs were trying to escape from the Turks and settled (in Croatia)," countered physician Branco Lovrec, president of the Baptist Union of Croatia in Zagreb. Both agree, however, that Jesus is the answer for the Balkan people. "We need to spread the gospel and preach to them and hold evangelistic services for them," Vidovic said. Lovrec's face brightened as he added, "Whether in Serbia, Bosnia, or Croatia, if we now can unite in the vision that the people need the gospel more than anything else, this might slowly diminish the animosity of the war."

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Gladys Bryant, BSU director for 35 years at East Central Junior College in Decatur, announces her retirement. "Miss B" is recognized with a Citation of Excellence from the Student Work Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

20 years ago

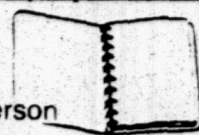
A.V. Washburn, director of the Sunday School Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, joins staff and members of First Church, Gulfport, in their celebration of Mrs. H.B. Longest's 60th anniversary as a Sunday School teacher.

50 years ago

W.A. Hewitt, pastor emeritus of First Church, Jackson, donates the furnishings and books from his personal study to the new Mississippi Union Theological Seminary, organized for the training of Negro Christian leaders.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



Still bound to Egypt

The leeks and garlic of the Nile Delta do not taste so good now. The "called out" ones are suffering from heartburn — what was once so attractive and tasty is losing its flavor. Perhaps time, maybe distance, influence our religion more than we care to admit.

It seems that we never did get far from Egypt. The Promised Land is just that — a promise. We've seen Egypt, we know the taste, the flavor. It is so familiar. We feel at home. Remember those beautiful palm trees, the largest pomegranates in the world? The Egyptian culture was so soothing. "The Egyptians have power and know how to use it," we say to each other.

In the land of the Pharaohs we had it made. Sure we were slaves, but our masters were fair and we knew what to expect on the morrow. I'm homesick for the market

place, those wonderful Egyptian holidays and meaningful customs. I want a place to call home.

This wilderness is so barren, the manna is so "blah." Since when did we choose Moses as our leader? The music is not what we knew in the land of Egypt. About this one-God theology — in Egypt we had a dozen gods! And that ugly, strange tabernacle — oh, to see the stewpots of Goshen again! Sure there were monumental heartburns but they had plenty of antacids.

Moses and the elders say only, "Faith is the way." God has spoken and "We will abide by his word." We have a city "not made with hands and by faith we can see it afar."

That's really not much to go on — faith. Ha! Back there we had fame, popularity, even wealth at times. They sing, "I'd rather have

Jehovah than silver or gold." Try to spend that song in the market or pay a chariot note with it. You know, it's just as easy to be mean, unloving, and greedy in the desert; we can be like the earthbound people.

This "Egypt-craving" attitude can be evident in today's worship. Loving God with all your heart, mind, and soul may have to take a back seat to practicality. They tell us prayer is the food for growth, gives strength too, but we need something we can feel and see.

Surely we could gain strength and power through programs, activities, or a strong imitation of the world. What a miserable feeling: we can't turn back to Egypt and we can't go forward. Just wandering, year after year. It's hard to keep an eye on Christ when we keep looking back to the old country.

Saddleback pastor proposes 12-step plan to revitalize SBC

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — The first step toward revitalizing denominational organizations is understanding why their influence is declining, Rick Warren told Baptist communicators meeting recently in New Mexico.

Warren, senior pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Orange County, Calif., named the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) as one denomination needing to "face the spiritual and sociological causes of that decline with courage, frankness, and humility."

"These are great days of change in the SBC," Warren told the BPRA gathering. "I have more hope for our convention than I have in the last 10 years."

But while Warren favors the restructuring plan now under way in the SBC, he said "restructuring will not be enough — you must also have revitalization."

The SBC restructuring plan, called a "Covenant for a New Century," was approved at the 1995 SBC meeting in Atlanta. A proposed bylaw change scheduled for a vote at this year's SBC meeting in New Orleans would clear the way to reduce the number of SBC agencies from 19 to 12 by merging three existing agencies into a single new entity, the North American Mission Board, and combining or dissolving several others.

Warren acknowledged the

Covenant for a New Century deals with structure and expresses some statements of vision and purpose. What it lacks, he said, is the strategy needed to help the plan succeed.

Besides coming to grips with the causes of their declining influence, Warren said denominations must:

- shift from being program-driven to being purpose-driven. Denominations need to "recommit to assisting congregations to fulfill the New Testament purposes of worship, evangelism, education, ministry, and fellowship," Warren said.

- shift from being tradition-bound to being need-sensitive. Examine the validity and effectiveness of every denominational task, Warren recommended. "Ask: What's working? What's not working?" Don't automatically discard traditions, but don't confuse tradition with orthodoxy either, he said.

- refocus on supporting and strengthening pastors, both personally and professionally. "Reposition the denomination as the pastor's greatest ally," Warren suggested. "Forget about preserving programs and assume the role of servant to the shepherds."

- return to defining the denomination and allegiance to it by doctrinal distinctives and purposes rather than by programs, polity, or worship style. He said

the SBC should once again "emphasize unity in belief while enjoying and encouraging diversity in local church expression."

- offer choices in everything the denomination supplies to churches: programming, resources, assistance, mission support, and involvement.

- draw on the strength of the largest churches in the denomination rather than resenting, fearing, or discounting them as aberrations.

- take full advantage of state-of-the-art technology to increase two-way communication with pastors and churches. He suggested replacing one-way communication (program promotion) with "opportunities for churches to explain what they need and offer suggestions."

- allow designated giving. Warren said churches want to know exactly where their gifts are going. "Don't treat designated gifts as second-class gifts," he stressed.

- invest in fruitfulness, not just faithfulness. "Reward fruitful ministries and stop subsidizing failures," Warren recommended.

- streamline the structure to maximize ministry and minimize maintenance. Reduce the number of denominational meetings, Warren said. When possible, he continued, use technology to accomplish what previously has required a meeting.

Go... Baptize...
Matthew 28:19

Over 200,000

baptisms annually,

130 countries, 3800

foreign missionaries



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Celebrate:

Cooperative Program Day in April

THE FRAGMENTS



Grits and red-eye

Breakfast has deteriorated to a bowl of cereal with a chipped up banana. This pleases my doctor. My wife likes it because I can prepare this gourmet's delight by myself.

A few weeks ago I was in a conference where I had to spend the night. The hospitable couple who housed me had been married for 53 years; their house was immaculate.

She asked, "Brother Guy, what would you like for breakfast?"

I could have said, "A bowl of dry cereal," but long experience has served me well.

"Just whatever you usually have," I answered.

The next morning as the retired farmer/rancher and I sipped coffee and gazed across about 150 acres of prime pasture land, I heard his wife say, "It's ready."

For a minute I thought we had turned the clock back to the days

before cholesterol was invented, when people interpreted the morning meal as "break-fast."

Hot biscuits steamed under a cloth napkin, country-fried ham, buttery grits, scrambled eggs, and hot coffee awaited me on the table. I was tempted to add a postscript to the prayer such as the little boy who fell into a barrel of molasses: "Lord, let my tongue be equal to the occasion."

The tantalizing taste, the gastronomic delight, the savory way to begin the day! The butter melted quickly on the biscuits and the fig preserves decorated the edges. It was great.

Later on the couple confessed that they usually had cereal, but for that day we pushed the cardboard boxes aside. Antoine's or the lads at the old Southern Tea Room would have burned with envy to have seen that table.

— GH

Mission Statement
Consider presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ as a life-giving message. The Gospel is the power of God for salvation to all who believe. It is the good news that God has sent His Son to die for our sins, to give us life and peace. The Gospel is the power of God for salvation to all who believe. It is the good news that God has sent His Son to die for our sins, to give us life and peace. The Gospel is the power of God for salvation to all who believe. It is the good news that God has sent His Son to die for our sins, to give us life and peace.

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Southern Baptist Convention

Annual Meeting — June 11-13, 1996
Superdome, New Orleans

Tuesday Morning, June 11

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration — Adult Choir and Orchestra, John Walker, director, interim minister of music, Summer Grove Church, Shreveport, La.
- 8:30 Call to Order
Congregational Singing — John V. Glover, Jr., convention music director, minister of music, First Church, Atlanta
Prayer — Bobby D. Brewer, layman, First Church, Quitman
- 8:35 Registration Report and Constitution of Convention — Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary, retired, Lawrenceville, Ga.
- 8:40 Committee on Order of Business (First Report) — James W. (Jim) Richards, chairman, director of missions, Northwest Association, Rogers, Ark.
- 8:45 Welcome — Leon Hyatt, retired, Pineville, La.
- 8:50 Response — Tony Rengifo, foreign missionary, Costa Rica
- 8:55 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Credentials, Resolutions, and Tellers
- 9:00 Theme Interpretation — "If My People... Called by My Name" — Larry D. Nail, pastor, First Church, El Dorado Springs, Mo.
- 9:10 Prayer for Revival — Tim Lafleur, BSU director, Nichols State University, Thibodaux, La.
- 9:15 Crossover New Orleans — Darrell W. Robinson, vice president, evangelism, Home Mission Board
- 9:20 Introduction of Motions and Resolutions
- 9:35 Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary Report — Stephen P. Carleton, secretary-treasurer
- 9:45 Executive Committee Report (Part 1) — Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer
- 10:40 Southern Baptist Convention Canada Planning Group Report — Larry L. Lewis, president, Home Mission Board
- 10:45 Denominational Press Report — Herb Hollinger, vice president for convention news, Executive Committee
- 10:55 Woman's Missionary Union Report — Dellanna W. O'Brien, executive director
- 11:05 Congregational Singing — Ragan M. Vandegriff, III, minister of music, First Church, Orlando
- 11:10 Music — Lights Shine, Ragan M. Vandegriff III, director, First Church, Orlando
- 11:20 Kate (Kitty) Henry Campbell, soloist, songwriter, Nashville
- 11:20 President's Address — James B. (Jim) Henry, SBC president, pastor, First Church, Orlando
- 12:00 Benediction — Joe Gebhardt, layman, Two Rivers Church, Nashville

Tuesday Afternoon, June 11

- 1:00 Music for Inspiration — The Centurymen, Beryl Red, director, ministers of music of the Southern Baptist Convention
- 1:20 Congregational Singing — Price Harris, music evangelist, Shreveport
- 1:25 Theme Interpretation — "If My People... Humble Themselves" — Ron Dunn, evangelist, Irving, Texas
- 1:35 Prayer for Revival — Daniel Gage, evangelist, Houston
- 1:40 Business
Committee on Order of Business (Second Report) — Jim Richards
Introduction of Motions and Resolutions
- 1:50 Annuity Board Report — Paul W. Powell, president, Dallas
- 2:00 Christian Life Commission Report — Richard D. Land, president
- 2:10 Congregational Singing — Danny Martinez, minister of music, Immanuel Church, Highland, Calif.
- 2:15 Committee on Nominations Report — Ronnie W. Rogers, chairman, pastor, Lakeside Church, Hot Springs
- 2:25 Messenger Information Survey — David W. Atchison, SBC recording secretary, director, Turning Point Ministries, Franklin, Tenn.
- 2:35 Election of Officers (First)
- 2:50 Executive Committee Report (Part 2) — Morris H. Chapman
- 3:50 Bold Mission Thrust Report — Ernest E. Mosley, executive vice president, Executive Committee
- 4:00 Congregational Singing — Richard (Dick) Thomassian, minister of music, Whitesburg Church, Huntsville, Ala.
- 4:05 Committee on Committees Report
- 4:15 Introduction of Motions and Resolutions
- 4:30 Election of Officers (Second)
- 4:45 Benediction — Larry D. Reagan, pastor, Hill Station Church, Goshen, Ohio

Tuesday Evening, June 11

- 6:00 Music for Inspiration — Marshall Kellam, music evangelist, Louisville, Ky. Friends IV, gospel quartet, Nashville
- 6:20 Congregational Singing — Mark Blankenship, director, music department, Sunday School Board
- 6:25 Theme Interpretation — "If My People... Pray" — Donald Whitney, assistant professor of spiritual formation, Midwestern Seminary
- 6:35 Prayer for Revival — David Clark, layman, South Oaks Church, Baton Rouge
- 6:40 Brotherhood Commission Report — James D. Williams, president
- 6:50 Election of Officers (Third)
- 7:00 Sunday School Board Report — James T. Draper, Jr., president
- 7:10 Sunday School Board Presentation
- 7:50 Congregational Singing — Rob Hewell, director, church music ministries, Arkansas Convention, Little Rock
- 7:55 Committee on Order of Business (Third Report) — Jim Richards
- 8:00 Theme Interpretation — "If My People... Seek" — Don McMinn, professional associate, Intimate Life Ministries, Irving, Texas

(See SBC on page 5)

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, April 11, 1996

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State layman, pastor, & choir appear on 1996 SBC program

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention returns to the Superdome in New Orleans June 11-13, featuring a Mississippi layman, pastor, and the choir and orchestra from the state's largest church.

Bobby Brewer, layman in First Church, Quitman, will offer the opening prayer after the annual meeting is called to order at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 11.

Joe Strahan, pastor of Northside Church, Vicksburg, will offer a prayer for revival at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, June 12.

The sanctuary choir and orchestra of First Church, Jackson, will open the Wednesday evening, June 12, session at 6 p.m. with music for inspiration.

Important events scheduled for the meeting include election of a new president, reports on a major restructuring of the denomination, consideration of a myriad of business items, sermons, music, and fellowship.

It will be the 139th session of the nation's largest evangelical body — which is in its 151st year — and will mark the ninth time it has met in the Crescent City. The first was in 1877 when 164 messengers

were registered and the last was in 1990 when 38,403 messengers were in attendance. Last year in Atlanta for the SBC's 150th anniversary celebration, 20,654 messengers were on hand.

The theme for the 1996 meeting is "If My People..." taken from 2 Chronicles 7:14, with a different person each session sharing a subject from the familiar Old Testament revival passage.

Messengers will elect a president to succeed Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., who finishes a second one-year term. The only announced candidate for the non-salaried, largely ceremonial post, but one with important appointive powers, is Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla. If elected, Elliff is seen as continuing a denominational direction begun in 1979 called the "conservative resurgence."

Messengers also will get to see the first blueprints of the restructuring of the denomination, called the "Covenant for a New Century," which was approved at last year's annual meeting. A second vote on SBC Bylaw 15, which lists the 19 agencies of the convention, will be taken and, if passed, will reduce the number of agencies to 12 through dissolution or merger of several entities.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Scalia exhorts MC Christian Legal Society

By William H. Perkins Jr.

U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia addressed members of the Mississippi College (MC) School of Law's Christian Legal Society during a prayer breakfast April 9 at First Church, Jackson.

Scalia, 60, known for his impassioned, conservative opinions on issues brought before the nation's highest court, entitled his speech, "Not To the Wise: The Christian as Cretin."

He told the packed fellowship hall crowd that they must have courage to endure the contempt of a world in which many people believe they are too educated and sophisticated to believe in the miracles of Christianity.

Scalia's invitation from the Christian Legal Society to participate in the Jackson-based school's annual Law Week was coordinated through the office of U.S. District Judge Charles Pickering of Laurel, a former two-term president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

"The students deserve a lot of credit for their hard work in putting together this exciting event. Interest in the Justice's visit has been tremendous. Tickets for the breakfast sold out," said J. Richard Hurt, dean of the MC School of Law.

An official attendance figure was not available as the newspaper moved toward publication

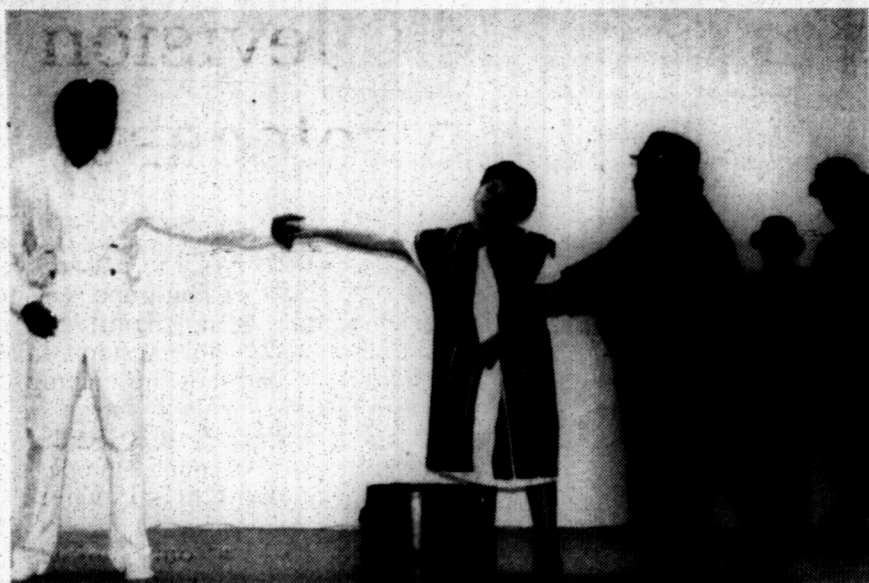
deadline immediately after Scalia spoke at the prayer breakfast. For a full report on Scalia's

visit to Mississippi, see next week's issue (April 18) of **The Baptist Record**.



Church building

Bill Hogue (left), executive director emeritus for the California Southern Baptist Convention in Fresno, talks with Edna Ellison, consultant in the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), after his April 4 presentation of **Kingdom Principles for Church Growth** in the Baptist Building Skyroom in Jackson. Hogue serves as a representative of the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) in Nashville, providing interpretation and advice on implementing **Kingdom Principles for Church Growth** materials, which BSSB plans to utilize well into the next century. Ellison was California's WMU director before moving to Mississippi. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



Christian performers

A total of 315 people attended the 1996 Mississippi Christian Performing Arts Festival March 29-30 at Alta Woods Church, Jackson. Performances included a drama group from Dixie Church, Hattiesburg (above), and puppeteers from Colonial Heights Church, Jackson (below). The festival is sponsored annually by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The 1997 festival will be held Feb. 28-March 1 at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. (Photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)



SWBTS to become major player in healing termination wounds

FORT WORTH — Just days ago, the Board of Trustees of the largest seminary in the world, Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, heard a presentation about a program to redeem and restore the ministries of pastors and church staff ministers who find themselves in conflicts with their churches that lead to their forced termination. The plan also helps the ministers' families and the churches that are in this turmoil.

Robert Anderson, senior pastor, and former Seminary (Miss.) resident Roy Davis, associate pastor of Parkview Church, Baton Rouge, La., presented their program, called "The Antioch Affection."

"The program is designed not only to help ministers and church staff members, but also to advance the seminary as a major player in the role of pastor/staff reclamation," said Jack Terry Jr., Southwestern Seminary's vice president for institutional advancement.

The plan involves "refuge churches" where a pastor or staff member facing termination is brought onto the staff. The minister/staff member will attend classes — designed to help deal with specific problems such as personal communication skills and husband/wife relationship issues — through the seminary's office of continuing education.

To raise funds and publicize the program, crusades will be held in various cities. Each crusade will enlist "embracers" who pledge \$50 per month for five years to help raise money for living expenses. The "embracers" also

help to secure refuge churches for the terminated ministers.

The Southwestern board of trustees voted unanimously to sponsor the "Antioch Affection" program.

"Usually when ministers are in

trouble, they feel they have no one on earth the turn to," said Davis. "They need counseling, ministerial advice, help for their family, and help for their church family that becomes increasingly divided..."

Southaven's Trinity provides vital ministry

Jim Butler, pastor of Trinity Church in Southaven, knew of the 63 pastors and staff members who were terminated last year in Mississippi. He discovered that 23% of all pastors have been terminated at some point in their ministries.

Forced termination not only takes away a pastor's ability to earn a living, it also takes away who he is as a minister. He faces fears of never being used by God again, having to start over, personal failure issues, loss of trust in church leaders, and perhaps the greatest loneliness one can experience. In desperation, he asks, "God, will I ever be able to serve again?"

Knowing this drove Butler and his church family to pray. The Lord then led the church to begin a ministry to terminated ministers and their families.

These pastors and staff members are added to the Trinity staff on a temporary basis. They are given a title as "associate minister of _____" (depending on which staff position they served in previous churches). The payment is small but it is much better than no pay at all. Counseling is provided for the pastor and his family during this time.

Adding these people to the Trinity staff spoke volumes. It restored their self-esteem, and put them in a position to seek another church. They are no longer outcasts but are part of a group where people are interested in their lives and in the restoration of their ministries.

Trinity Church seeks to minister to the needs of the terminated pastor and his family. Butler's vision and Trinity's compassion, are the encapsulation of the "golden rule" and the incarnation of what Jesus taught us to do.

Across the Magnolia State are other outstanding examples of churches ministering to those in need: some have made missionary homes available to terminated pastors; others have provided with counseling, rent money, food, and medical care.

SBC restructuring consultant criticized for lottery involvement

NASHVILLE (ABP) — The Executive Committee has come under fire for hiring a management consulting firm that has ties to a state lottery in Texas.

The Executive Committee voted Feb. 19 to spend up to \$495,000 to employ an unnamed management consulting firm to help implement a massive denominational restructuring approved by the SBC last summer.

Later, it was announced that the Executive Committee had signed a contract with Coopers & Lybrand, a management consultant firm based in Atlanta.

Ironically, Coopers & Lybrand also certifies the results of drawings in the Texas state lottery, and the firm's name is routinely mentioned during televised lottery drawings.

That connection prompted a letter to the editor in the March 27 issue of the Baptist Standard newspaper in Texas.

"The name Coopers & Lybrand almost seemed to jump off the page at me," wrote Fay Carter of Warren, Texas. "The SBC has hired the same firm that manages the Texas Lottery."

"And the Executive Committee even voted to pay up to \$495,000 for reorganization consulting fees. Talk about serving two masters."

David Hankins, vice president for convention policy and staff liaison with the Implementation Task Force that recommended the consulting firm, declined to be interviewed by Associated Baptist Press. He told ABP a statement would be

released through "normal channels," which he identified as Baptist Press, the SBC news service.

Later, Baptist Press released a story quoting Hankins expressing "regret that there is a connection, however minimal" between the management firm and the lottery.

Hankins also said SBC leaders did not know about that connection when they signed the contract with Coopers & Lybrand.

Hankins also told ABP he did not have any comment about whether it would be possible or desirable for the Executive Committee to get out of the contract with Coopers & Lybrand.

Ted Warren, a Baptist Sunday School Board executive who led the process of interviewing prospective management consultants, also declined to comment beyond the statement released through Baptist Press.

Warren indicated that the implementation team dealt with the consulting division at Coopers & Lybrand and not the auditing division in Texas which apparently works with the state lottery, Baptist Press reported.

Morris Chapman, president and chief executive officer for the Executive Committee, told Baptist Press, "In no way do we excuse, justify, or defend any business relationship with the lottery."

Southern Baptists "remain staunchly opposed to all forms of gambling, illegal or legal," Chapman said.

"In a perfect world this issue would not have arisen. Practicing 'being in the world and not of the world' is often a precarious journey, as our contract with Coopers & Lybrand demonstrates," Chapman continued.

Hankins said the firm does not manage or endorse the lottery but certifies lottery results as required by law as a guard against error or abuse.

A spokesman for Coopers & Lybrand declined to describe the firm's connection to the Texas lottery, citing a company policy against discussing a client matter with outsiders.

"We've had a conversation with the Southern Baptist Convention and we believe we have answered all of their questions to their satisfaction," the spokesman said.

The relationship with Coopers & Lybrand also sparked an exchange of notes on SBCNet, a computer bulletin board service for Southern Baptists.

"Can it possibly be true that the SBC has 'joined affinity with Ahab' again? Surely this report is inaccurate," observed Larry Holly of Beaumont, Texas.

"If the pre-1979 (SBC) leadership had hired a consulting firm to 'reorganize the SBC,' which firm was also involved in 'organized(ing)' gambling, conservatives would have righteously and indignantly screamed for their dismissal. If this report is true, it will be interesting to see if conservative leaders have convictions or cronies!" Holly wrote.

In another posting, Rodney Goen noted "the SBC is a business" and "it has to have a 'board' and a 'CEO' type to run like a business because of its size, money, and all that it encompasses."

"In today's business world, the idea of most is to get ahead and do it at all cost, no matter who you step on," he continued.

"Position, money, and power. These three items are the name of the game. Who else better to reorganize a corporation like the 'SBC' than the people who run the lottery? I'm not defending it, but reality is reality."

"Let a few 'Christians' who call themselves preachers... become administrators, and allow them to receive big salaries and perks — while at the same time instead of preaching Jesus all they do is handle money and business with a little preaching on the side just to keep them 'honest' — and see what you get," Goen wrote.

ABP also attempted to contact two Executive Committee members who voted to approve the hiring of a management firm. Blaine Barber of Petoskey, Mich., told a reporter he had not read anything about Coopers & Lybrand's connections and would prefer not to comment at this time.

Forrest Lowry, an Executive Committee member from Texas, was unavailable for comment and did not return a reporter's phone call by ABP's deadline.

Robert Reccord, chairman of the Implementation Task Force, was out of town and unavailable for comment.

- 8:10 Previously Scheduled Business; Introduction of Motions and Resolutions
 8:15 Denominational Calendar Committee Report — Wade Burleson, chairman, pastor, Emmanuel Church, Enid, Okla.
 8:25 Benediction — Richard Vera, pastor, Emmanuel Church at Riverside, Denver

Wednesday Morning, June 12

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration — New Orleans Seminary Chorus, H. Leroy Yarbrough, director, professor of choral conducting, New Orleans Seminary
 8:40 Congregational Singing — Byron Johnson, music director, Franklin Avenue Church, New Orleans
 8:45 Introduction of Local Arrangements Committee — John R. (Jack) Wilkerson, vice president for business and finance, Executive Committee
 8:50 Theme Interpretation — "If My People... Turn" — H. Paul Pressler, layman, First Church, Houston
 9:00 **Prayer for Revival** — Joe Strahan, pastor, Northside Church, Vicksburg
 9:05 Election of Officers (Fourth)
 9:10 Radio and Television Commission Report — Jack B. Johnson, president
 9:20 Congregational Singing — H. Leroy Yarbrough
 9:25 Seminary Presentation and Reports — William O. Crews, president, Golden Gate; Mark T. Coppenger, president, Midwestern; Charles S. Kelley, president, New Orleans; Paige Patterson, president, Southeastern; R. Albert Mohler, Jr., president, Southern; Kenneth S. Hemphill, president, Southwestern
 10:25 Congregational Singing — William J. Reynolds, distinguished professor of church music, Southwestern Seminary
 10:30 Business
 Committee on Order of Business (Fourth Report) — Jim Richards
 Introduction of Motions (Last Time)
 10:40 Previously Scheduled Business
 11:00 Committee on Resolutions (First Report)
 11:05 Election of Officers (Fifth)
 11:10 Music — Awaken America Singers and Band, Buster Pray, director, associate pastor of worship ministries, First Church, Springdale, Ark.
 11:20 Convention Sermon — Ronnie W. Floyd, pastor, First Church, Springdale, Ark.
 12:00 Benediction — Barbara O'Chester, director, Great Hills Ladies Retreat Ministry, Austin, Texas

No Wednesday Afternoon Session**Wednesday Evening, June 12**

- 6:00 **Music for Inspiration** — Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra, Larry Black, director, minister of music, First Church, Jackson
 6:25 Congregational Singing — Bill Cox, coordinator of volunteers in evangelism, Home Mission Board
 6:30 Business
 Committee on Order of Business (Fifth Report) — Jim Richards
 Election of 1997 Convention Sermon Preacher, alternate, and music director
 6:35 Home Mission Board Report — Larry L. Lewis, president
 6:45 Home Mission Board Presentation
 7:05 Congregational Singing — John S. Conrad, Foreign Mission Board, music ministry, Korea
 7:10 Baptist World Alliance Report — Denton Lotz, general secretary
 7:20 Foreign Mission Board Report — Jerry A. Rankin, president
 7:30 Zambian Acapella, singing ensemble, Zambia
 7:40 Foreign Mission Board Presentation
 8:55 Commitment Invitation
 9:00 Benediction — June Cosby, layperson, Woodland Park Church, Chattanooga

Thursday Morning, June 13

- 8:30 Music for Inspiration — Tim Kaufman, music evangelist, Winter Springs, Fla.
 Gwen "Ms. Chocolate" Williams, soloist, New Orleans
 8:50 Congregational Singing — Carlo Sciarra, Jr., bivocational music director, Faith Church, Clayton, La.
 8:55 Theme Interpretation — "If My People... Then I Will" — John Avant, pastor, Coggins Avenue Church, Brownwood, Texas
 9:05 Prayer for Revival — Clark Fooshee, bivocational pastor, Sweet Spirit Church, San Antonio
 9:10 Historical Commission Report — Slayden Yarbrough, interim executive director
 9:20 Memorial Service — W.A. Criswell, senior pastor emeritus, First Church, Dallas
 9:25 Education Commission Report — Stephen P. Carleton, executive director
 9:35 Southern Baptist Foundation Report — Hollis E. Johnson, III, president
 9:45 Stewardship Commission Report — Ronald E. Chandler, president
 9:55 American Bible Society Report — Eugene Habecker, president, New York
 10:05 Congregational Singing — Jim Watson, minister of music, Germantown Church, Germantown, Tenn.
 10:10 Introduction of Past Presidents — James B. (Jim) Henry
 10:15 Presentation of Outgoing SBC Officers — Morris H. Chapman
 10:20 Presentation of Newly Elected SBC Officers — James B. (Jim) Henry
 10:25 Previously Scheduled Business
 10:35 Committee on Resolutions (Final Report)
 10:50 Congregational Singing — John V. Glover, Jr.
 10:55 Music — Greater Vision, gospel trio, Morristown, Tenn.
 11:05 Testimony — Rick Scarborough, pastor, First Church, Pearland, Texas
 11:20 Message — Bill McCartney, founder, Promise Keepers, Denver
 12:00 Prayer for Revival and Benediction — Frank Whitaker, pastor, First Church, Lake Wales, Fla.

Thursday, April 11, 1996

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Growing power of cable television realized in local church telecasts

By Farrell Blankenship

Broadcast Workshop slated for April 19-20

The 10th annual Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting Workshop will be held April 19-20 at Calvary Church, 1300 W. Capitol Street in Jackson.

Workshop leaders will be Doug Price, 11 years with First Church, Lafayette, La.; Dave Edmonds, vice-president of Sound and Communications, Inc., Jackson; Ken Sims, video/audio consultant; Chip Turner, author of *The Video Answerbook*; Steve Guidry of Video Works, Inc., Jackson; and Bruce Cole, chairman of Broadcast Ministry, Bruce.

Church growth specialist Lyle Schaller, in a *Christianity Today* magazine article a few years ago, listed seven significant movements of which church congregations should be aware in order to keep up with the times.

The first one was "use of local cable television." That is a significant statement, coming from one of the gurus of church growth for the past decade.

Television technology has changed dramatically in the last five years, and with the wedding of computer and television on the electronic superhighway, the biggest changes are yet to occur.

Digital compression — the ability to compress 10 signals or channels into the space normally needed for one signal — is now a reality.

Fiber optic technology has made much of this possible.

The cable industry is predicting that 100-500 channels will soon come into our homes, leading us to "narrowcasting" at its zenith.

Buying television equipment today can be costly, but you can still find good prices which have come down over the years as the technology has improved tremendously.

Many churches in Mississippi are paying to put the gospel on radio and television.

There are presently 69 churches using television and 121 churches using radio. Many of these are putting their worship service(s) on both television and radio.

A good number of these churches are also providing other programming, such as local high school sports, Christmas parades, local political debates, etc.

Some churches supply Bible studies, Christian talk shows, Sunday school lessons, local health programs, church musicals, and mission trip video reports, as well as promotional spots for different age groups and other ministries of the church.

Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting (MBIB) annually recognizes churches for various kinds of programming: missions/evangelism, church musicals, community service, best spot, best first time entry, etc.

A group of judges considers each television, radio, and video entry, and selects winners in each category. These awards are presented each year at the MBIB annual awards banquet.

Every entry must list a "Statement of Purpose" on the entry form. Statements on this year's entries include:

— "To spread the gospel to our community through television."

— "This Christmas musical was presented to enhance the Christmas season and to give glory to the name of the Lord and His son, Jesus."

— "To provide quality Christian

vision System (ACTS) network — now a part of Faith and Values Channel — and FamilyNet are on 36 local cable systems in Mississippi, and they are making a difference.

The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission operates these two Christian networks.

About 10-12 of our churches insert local programming along with ACTS programs, while the others are bringing only ACTS or FamilyNet programming to their communities.

It is imperative that our Christian communities be ready, willing, and able to stand up to commercial network television and offer an alternative to the low morality and the absence of Christianity on commercial television.

For more information, contact the Broadcast Services Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Blankenship is director of MBCB Broadcast Services Department.

programming in our area."

— "It is also a valuable outreach tool for people in our community."

These folks are serious about spreading the gospel and feel that it is worth the time, effort, and money to share this witness through television.

The American Christian Tele-



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

My wife has developed an intense friendship with another woman that has taken her away from our family virtually all the time. How can I explain my loneliness to her?

Your wife's friendship fills a need in her life — something she feels she is not getting from her relationship with you, God, or her family. It may be welling up from a deep hurt in her past, possibly an unspoken hurt that she has not shared with you from some reason. First of all, you must pray about this. Pray for God's intervention in your wife's life. Pray that you won't do anything in the midst of your hurt that will drive her farther away from you. Don't beg or plead; let her know that you miss her when she is not available. In explaining your loneliness to her, describe what it feels like to be without her. Lastly, when your children come to you with questions about this situation, encourage them to talk with their mother and ask her the questions. Remember the saying, "Out of the mouth of babes...."

Do you think it is proper for a man with young children to spend a month each year at deer camp?

Children of all ages need both parents at home. The more distant a parent becomes from his children, the more susceptible the children become to outside pressures and influences. When your husband is away during deer season, does he come home at all to spend time with his children and help out around the house so you can catch your breath? Don't nag him or play to his conscience. Instead, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to move in his heart. As with the wife and mother in the above question, consider what he is getting from his time away that fills a need. Have the two of you talked lately about your goals, needs, and dreams? How do you keep yourselves in balance — emotionally, physically, spiritually, and socially? In what areas do the two of you need improvement so that needs are met? Strive to serve Christ in all you do. You cannot force your mate to improve, but you can do it for yourself day in and day out. Your husband may just notice the difference.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



Eager for the Word

Zhang En-guang, 67, preaches to a packed house at Ling Shui Church in China's Gansu province. About 300 people squeeze into the rural church whenever Zhang comes to preach — about once a month. Zhang is one of the few trained Christian leaders working in an area the size of Washington state. For eight years, he has helped start churches along the ancient Silk Road trading route in the remote province. (BP photo by Warren Johnson.)

SBC Cooperative Program gifts take a dip in March

NASHVILLE (BP) — Cooperative Program gifts for the month of March were down slightly compared to the previous year, as were designated gifts, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

The March 1996 total of \$12,652,229 compared with the March 1995 CP total of \$12,798,612, or a difference of \$146,382 or 1.14%. For the SBC's fiscal year, since Oct 1, CP gifts totaled \$72,971,906 compared to the same six month total the previous fiscal year of \$73,676,952, a difference of \$705,046 or .96%.

Designated gifts were down 3.43% for March, with \$17,507,489 compared to \$18,128,922 the previous year's month, a difference of \$621,433. However, for the year to date, designated gifts were still above last year by more than \$5 million — \$87,087,489 compared to the previous year to date of \$81,995,342, a difference of \$5,092,147 or 6.21%.

For the SBC's Program Allocation Budget, the first six months show CP gifts more than \$2 million above the budget requirement. For the year-to-date, CP gifts total \$72,971,906, compared to the budget requirement for that period of \$70,814,563, a difference of \$2,157,342 or 3.05%. The March 1996 CP total of \$12,652,229 is 7.2% above the required monthly budget total of \$11,802,427.

Gambling foes applaud ruling on Indian casinos

DALLAS (BP) — Gambling opponents hailed a March 27 Supreme Court decision barring federal lawsuits against states in disputes over Indian reservation gambling.

In a case pitting the Seminole tribe against the state of Florida, the court ruled that Congress cannot authorize lawsuits against states over federal policies.

The Supreme Court, in a 5-4 decision, ruled that Congress cannot try to resolve disputes between Indian tribes and states over on-reservation gambling by making the states and their elected officials targets of federal lawsuits.

Writing for the majority, Chief Justice William Rehnquist stated that the Eleventh Amendment prevents Congress from making any state capable of being sued in federal court.

"The ruling put the brakes on a

runaway train without derailing the train or destroying the track," said Weston Ware, associate director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"Since 1988, a number of states have succumbed to the pressure of outside money funding tribes in their efforts to secure agreements allowing major casinos on reservations," he said.

Nationally, 126 Indian tribes in nearly two dozen states have on-reservation gambling.

500-plus retirees receiving aid from Southern Baptists

DALLAS (BP) — More than 9,000 retired Southern Baptist ministers or their widows receive \$200 or less a month in pension benefits from their denominational retirement plan.

"It is the old story of too little, too late," said Paul W. Powell, president of the Annuity Board. "Thousands of our churches and pastors did not make the Church Annuity Plan a priority in their salary and benefits planning. By the time the reality of need soaked in, it was too late to catch up."

"Now, we look to the Cooperative Program to provide relief funds for the most desperate cases," Powell said, "and to the Annuity Board's Adopt An Annuitant Program as an added blessing."

Powell tells of stacks of letters he receives that recall pastoral ministries reaching 30 or 40 years, always in small churches, and always depending on God and his people to meet modest human needs. "These old soldiers of the cross assumed nothing except a simple faith that God would provide," Powell said. "There is almost never a complaint, but always a humble, gracious 'Thank you' for every evidence of love and care by Southern Baptists."

Powell noted, "Every penny of Cooperative Program money we receive goes to some needy church or missions worker or his widow. That means about \$1.2 million this year will be divided among some 540 individuals or couples as monthly or expense grants. The operating expense of the board is paid from earnings on assets without any subsidy from the Cooperative Program."

More than half the relief recipients receive no regular monthly annuity benefit because their churches never enrolled them in the Church Annuity Plan. Some do not even receive Social Security.

"If the Cooperative Program gives life-saving aid, the Adopt An Annuitant Program gives life-living aid," said Joe McIntosh, the Annuity Board's vice president for endowment. This program targets the oldest annuitants with the lowest benefits and uses direct gifts to provide a \$50-per-month supplement to their regular benefit from the board.

"Fifty dollars a month may sound little to most people, but for the 1,900 we are now able to help each month it could be a 25% increase," McIntosh said. "For some, it represents a doubling of monthly benefits."

Once a person begins receiving the Adopt An Annuitant benefit, the Annuity Board assumes a lifetime need. "Most of this \$600 annual cost must be raised every

year," McIntosh said. The Annuity Board does appeal for large gifts; \$7,500 will endow an "adoption" in perpetuity, but most of the \$1.2 million annual cost is raised in smaller amounts.

A group of volunteers known as the Retired Ministers Support Corps is organized in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia to share the Adopt An Annuitant story. State annuity representatives in convention offices also provide information.

"Increasingly," said Powell, "our ministers and their churches are making better preparation for

retirement. But as Jesus said, the poor will always be with us. These people, for whatever reason, will need help. Their trust is in God; now they are counting on us to rescue them from acute need. We can be God's good hands to lift them up. Pray for us, and ask God how he wants you to help."

The theme for Annuity Board Sunday June 23 in the Southern Baptist Convention calendar is "Their Trust Is in God; Now They Are Counting on You."

For more information, write C. Joe McIntosh, Annuity Board, SBC, P.O. Box 2190, Dallas, TX 75221-2190.

Royal Ambassador camps, Lad/Dad weekend events scheduled at Central Hills

Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko is now accepting registrations for the summer 1996 series of Royal Ambassador (RA) camps and other activities.

Six weeks of resident camp sessions, each of which runs Monday through Friday, are scheduled for boys in grades four through 12:

- June 17-21;
- June 24-28;
- July 8-12;
- July 15-19;
- July 22-26; and
- July 29-Aug. 2.

A pair of Lad-Dad weekend camp sessions for boys in grades one through three and their fathers will be held on June 28-29 and July 12-13.

Campers will be supervised by the retreat's professional staff and a carefully selected group of collegians and high school seniors serving as student staffers.

Senior adult volunteer counselors support the staff during varying lengths of service at the retreat.

Campers participate in lakeside worship services, flag assemblies, mission emphasis sessions, handicrafts, canoeing on a 16-acre lake, horseback trail riding, archery, tether ball, four-square ball, skit nights, morning watch devotions, Bible study, swimming in a junior

Olympic pool, camp craft skills instruction, riflery in a prone position with a .22 rifle, a low elements adventure challenge ropes course, field games, and a campfire worship service.

The Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board conducts the camping program at the Attala County camp. Dan West is camp manager.

Registration forms are available from each Baptist associational office; from Central Hills Retreat, P.O. Box 723, Kosciusko, MS 39090-0723, telephone (601) 289-9730; and from the Brotherhood Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530, telephone (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

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Letters to the editor



Child abuse a reality

Editor:

Thank you for your awareness of the reality of child abuse in Mississippi made evident by your March 28 articles. Your concern for the widespread need of abused and neglected children and their families is appreciated. Mississippi Baptist churches have, however, responded to the need for emergency shelters in the state for the past 15 years.

Mississippi Baptists have pro-

vided continuous emergency care through its own official child care agency, the Baptist Children's Village, since 1981 when the first emergency care cottage was opened on our India Nunnery Campus in Jackson. An additional emergency care cottage has recently been opened on our Farrow Manor Campus in north Mississippi. With the addition of this third emergency care cottage, The Village can now care for up to 30 children in this program alone — at no cost to the family.

We at The Village, are keenly aware of the increasing need for specialized, intensive care treatment for severely disturbed children and youth. Continuing our tradition of meeting the changing needs of our society, we now seek to provide services for an even greater need, intense psychological care.

Please, pastors, consider this my personal invitation to contact us if you have any child or family in need of our diverse services on five campuses across Mississippi.

The Lord has blessed us with a caring staff who understand our call to serve families and children in the state.

Ronny Robinson, exec. director
The Baptist Children's Village
Clinton

"This is church"

Editor:

Why is it that Easter Sundays feel so right? What is it about seeing people stream into the worship services singing, conversing, hugging, complimenting, glowing, and, well, worshipping? How is it that we go away with the best intentions of repeating the faithfulness the following week only to awaken lacking just the right spirit of Easter enthusiasm? I guess maybe that is what heaven is reserved for. A place where all our best intentions are blessed by the very Presence of the Lord himself. A place where we desire to be with those who share our common interests. A place where we long to see Jesus and pay him his rightful respect. A place where his loneliness is experienced and his

love felt. A place where people are equally accepted and lovingly embraced. A place where everyone sings because we know that it honors God and blesses his name. A place where God is unmistakably present for all to experience. A place where all prejudice has been removed and everybody sides with Jesus, because, after all, it is his "place" that was purchased with his body and blood.

There is a line in the baseball movie "Field of Dreams" in which a dead baseball player has fictitiously come back from wherever to a baseball field in Iowa. He is so overwhelmed by the beauty of the immaculate, manicured field that he asks the owner a probing question: "Is this heaven?" The owner responds, "No, this is Iowa."

Wouldn't it be grand for someone to remark some Sunday morning (other than Easter) when we gather for worship with this question: "Is this heaven?" And all of us would respond in unison: "No, this is church!"

Jim Phillips, pastor
North Greenwood Church
Greenwood

The Greatest Gift In The World.

Now you can make sharing Jesus part of your everyday life. Naturally. Effectively.

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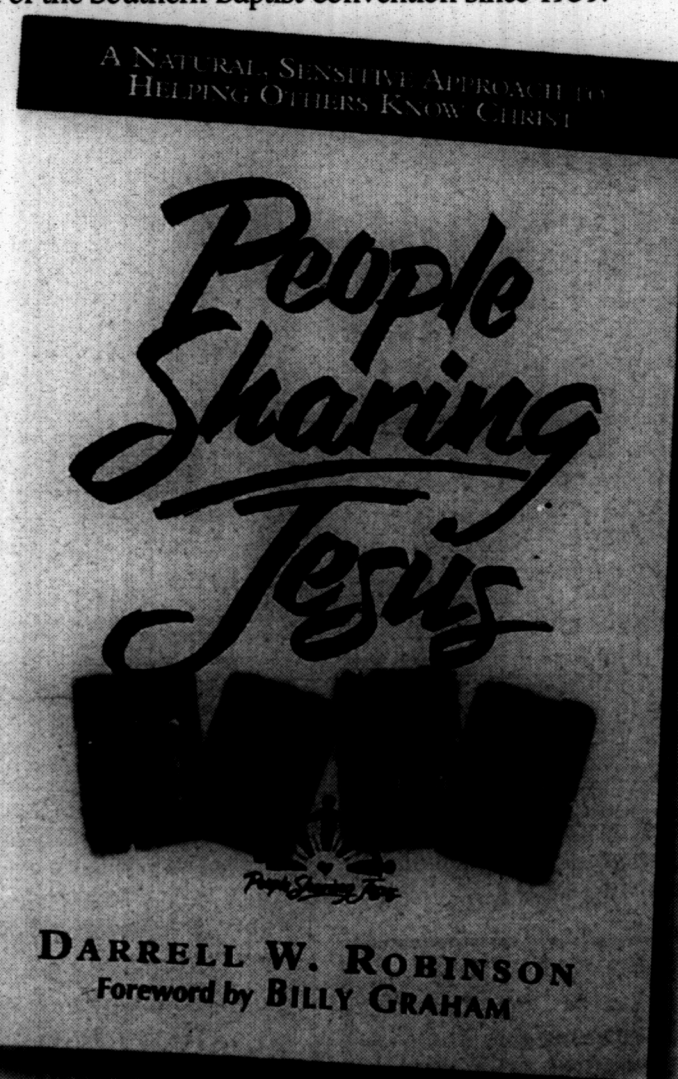
People Sharing Jesus is a breakthrough process by Darrell W. Robinson, head of evangelism for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention since 1989.

People Sharing Jesus isn't about gimmicks or manipulation. It's about sharing the joy and faith you've found in Christ. Without guilt, anxiety, or awkwardness.

People Sharing Jesus is available at your local Christian bookstore in book form, abridged audio tapes, audio seminar, dramatized video, leader's guide, and special New Testament edition. It's everything you and your church need to build confidence, knowledge, and inspiration for sharing Christ. Just as your Father intended.



Available now at your local Baptist Book Store or any Christian bookstore.



"Darrell Robinson, whose pastor's heart is clear and resounding, has expressed most helpfully in this book the basic features of a spontaneous witness for our living Lord. I recommend *People Sharing Jesus* to all who are experiencing God, and have an inner desire to bear witness to others."

— Henry T. Blackaby, Author, *Experiencing God*

Missionary kids recount feelings of culture shock

BOLIVAR, Mo. (BP) — The scene was a college campus in Missouri. It was late afternoon on a Friday in September. In the dormitories, a slew of people were scurrying around, collecting baggage, sunscreen, and volleyballs.

To the beach! To the mountains! It seemed like everyone had someplace to go.

Left in the dorm halls were empty pizza boxes, a dirty sock, and a handful of MKs — missionary kids.

"We came to the conclusion that everyone was going somewhere, and we didn't even know we were supposed to be planning to go," recalled former MK Julie Ford Dominguez, whose parents were Foreign Mission Board missionaries to Argentina at the time.

Dominguez was a freshman at Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, experiencing Labor Day weekend — a holiday she and other MKs weren't accustomed to celebrating.

Julie had lived in Argentina with her parents, David and Janene Ford, since 1978.

Though she had the luxury of her parents' presence as college began, the Fords soon returned to Argentina, and their freshman began her battle with classic culture shock.

Ford said they expected their daughter's adjustment to United States culture to take three to five years.

It was difficult for him and his wife to talk with their daughter frequently since their communication was limited to a ham radio.

Dominguez was not acquainted with popular culture jokes and references in the States, which proved to be a great source of

entertainment for her new friends. "But it was a huge source of distress for me," she confessed. "Things like not knowing how to use a drive-in made me feel like a real idiot."

"People did not comprehend culture shock and that there wasn't anything wrong with not knowing how to do some things. It wasn't a reflection of my intellect if I didn't know how to use a water fountain, because we don't have water fountains like that in Argentina."

Laura Sherer, a senior at William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., had a harder time making friends when she arrived in the United States without her parents, Robert and Claudia Sherer.

As an MK from Japan, she went through orientation for the fall semester while suffering jet lag.

Then she focused solely on school work.

It wasn't until November that she started building her circle of friends.

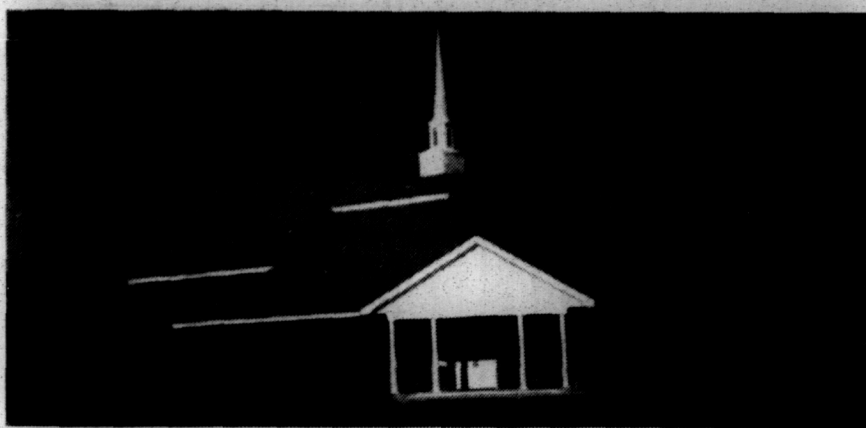
"There were certain phrases like 'digging a hole for yourself' — I had no idea what that meant," Sherer said. "At first, I found that I was left out of a lot of conversations. But it just takes time."

For her, adapting to college wasn't the hardest part of facing American culture.

Those experiences happened when she was younger. "The most difficult time was on furloughs... because kids can be really cruel when you're different," she recalled.

"It's weird — it really doesn't make sense because I miss being away from home, but I really love the States and my friends here, too."

Just for the Record



Agricola Church, George Association, held dedication services on Feb. 4 for a new worship center. The guest speaker was Fred Wolfe of Mobile, Ala. Others on program were Bryce Evans, former pastor, and John Henry, associational missionary. Don M. Boone is pastor.

The Mississippi College board of trustees is in the process of formulating its slate of trustees for consideration by the Nominating Committee and the 1996 annual meeting. Persons wishing to make recommendations should forward them to the Office of the President, Mississippi College, P.O. Box 4186, Clinton, MS 39058.

Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, will hold its 4th Annual Spring Prayer Conference on April 12-13. "Dimensions of God-Initiated Prayer" conference will be conducted by Gregory R. Frizzell, pastor of Georgian Hills Church, Memphis. Frizzell said, "Every phase of this conference focuses on personal relationship with Christ as the absolute key to individual prayer power." The conference will be held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday. For further information call (601) 924-5620.

Youth ministers will be able to upgrade their ministry skills and interface with top Southern Baptist youth educators and leaders during "YouthWorks 96" at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. The conference will be held April 12-14.

YouthWorks 96 is a weekend seminar on youth ministry for volunteer, part-time, full-time, and summer youth ministers, as well as students interested in youth ministry. For more information, call (817) 923-1921, ext. 8888.

Montgomery Church, Summit, will present "The Potter" on April 14 at 11 a.m. "The Potter," Josephus Smith, is one of three men who portray Jesus in The Great Passion Play, Eureka Springs, Ark. He will also be at the following locations on April 14: Bogue Chitto Church, Bogue Chitto, 3:30 p.m. and Enon Church, Jayess, 6:30 p.m. Bill Miller is pastor of Montgomery Church. For further information call (601) 276-9476 or 276-7772.

The Golden Triangle Association, Bill Duncan, director, will hold a "Mind of Christ" Conference at Fairview Church, Columbus, April 26-27. The times are Friday, 7-9 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. T.W. Hunt will lead the conference. Call (601) 328-6802 for more information.

The Mississippi College Band under the direction of John Han-

bery will host a free concert on April 15 at 4 p.m. in Aven Auditorium. The band will perform "In Praise of Freedom," "When We All Get To Heaven," "The Ram-parts," and a selection from "Cats," among other works. The concert will include a guest performance by the Mississippi College Dixieland Band.

The Department of Art at Mississippi College launched an exhibit on April 8 featuring the work of 10 senior art students. The exhibition will be on view from April 8 to May 3. Senior students being showcased in the exhibit are Elizabeth J. Binford, Andy Burczynski, Deanna Rippey Gardner, Ashley Hasselman, Alison M. Lipscomb, Paul Martin, Thomas F. Nations, Mathew F. Neal, Brister H. Wooley, and Vijaya Saradhi Vedala.

McAdams Church, Attala Association, set a goal of \$1,000 for Annie Armstrong Home Missions. Offering the first Sunday exceeded its goal and the total amount received was \$1,370. Jimmy Kettleman is pastor and Earlene Payne is WMU director.

William Carey College will co-sponsor the 12th Annual Conference on the Elderly Mentally Handicapped Mississippian on April 26, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Carey will sponsor the event in conjunction with Boswell Regional Center, Mississippi Gerontology Center, and the Mississippi Department of Mental Health. For more information contact Paul Cotten at (601) 582-6416.

Juniper Grove Church, Poplarville, has exceeded its Lottie Moon Offering goal of \$1,500. The church gave more than \$2,000 to the Christmas offering for foreign missions. It also exceeded its Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal of \$800 by giving more than \$1,000 for home missions.

The Blue Mountain College (BMC) ministerial alumnae will meet in April 26 on the BMC campus. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Chuck Hampton will speak in the chapel at 10 a.m. Lunch will be held at 12:30 p.m. with speaker Tommy Vinson. The annual BMC golf tournament will conclude the day's activities.

Beware of allegiance to parties and politicians, warns CLC head Land

WASHINGTON (BP) — The church needs to influence American public life in a righteous manner, but Christians need to beware of offering unwavering support to any politician or political party in the process, speakers warned frequently at the Christian Life Commission's national seminar March 4-6.

The theme of the CLC's 29th annual seminar, held at a Capitol Hill hotel, was "Christians in the Public Square: Faith in Practice?" The speakers — who included leaders of public policy advocacy organizations, Southern Baptist pastors, and seminary ethics professors — exhorted those in attendance to live out a biblical faith in the public arena while keeping their priorities in line.

"We must never sell the birthright of our second birth to any political leader, any human movement, to any political party," said Richard Land, the CLC's president. "Our loyalty and allegiance belongs to Jesus Christ."

The failure of most Christians in pre-World War II Germany to practice their faith properly should be a lesson to believers today. The church's inadequate theology led to the rise to power of Adolf Hitler and eventually the Holocaust, said David Gushee, professor of ethics at Southern Seminary.

"They failed to embrace important biblical, moral norms," said Gushee.

"Too frequently we pick a cluster of values and baptize them as Christian. We are especially enthusiastic about those who skillfully baptize these values in a Christian vocabulary. Then we offer these politicians our uncritical and unquestioning support."

Gary Bauer, president of the Family Research Council, applied such a warning to the 1996 presidential race.

"We ought to stand and call (a candidate) to task, even if inadvertently it will help a president that many of us don't like," Bauer said.

"I don't think we should get into the business of picking the lesser of two evils. We need to hold out a standard to say what it is we believe and what America needs, and if the candidates are not willing to rally to that standard, then I don't think we need to worry about what will happen to them on election day."

The church needs to experience change before it is able to exert the proper influence, some speakers said.

"We should not blame the politicians for the moral collapse of America," said O.S. Hawkins, pastor of First Church, Dallas. "We need to put it where it belongs, at the feet of the church. Biblical, moral standards are forgotten in an attempt to appease an immoral culture and in some ways to market the church to a secular world."

"America's biggest problem is an apathetic church who has lost her first love. And in losing that first love, we have lost our influence."

Said Land, "If we are going to have Christians in the public square and have faith in practice, we have to have the faith right first."

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Staff Changes

Charles McCollum has resigned as pastor of **Salem Church, Kemper Association**. He is now available for pulpit supply, interim, or evangelism and can be reached at Route #1, Box 210, Magee, MS, 39111, or (601) 849-5052.

Simmons Memorial Church, Flora, has called **Kerry Burroughs** as pastor effective April 7. A native of Benton, he is now attending the Jackson extension of New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Tinsley Church, Yazoo Association.

First Church, Jackson, has called **Ben Pritchett** as minister of education. He previously served First Church, Jonesboro, Ga. A native of Memphis, he is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary.

Bowmar Avenue Church, Vicksburg, has called **Stephen J.**

Hamrick as minister of music. He previously served Remount Church, Charleston, S.C. He received his education at Western Carolina University, New Orleans Seminary, University of North Florida, and Florida Junior College. Terry W. White is pastor.

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Tom Elliff speaks on "Enemies of Revival"

Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla. spoke on "Enemies of Revival" in a noonday rally, April 1, at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. Elliff is to be nominated as SBC president at the June Convention. He moved past this issue by saying Fred Wolfe called about it, he agreed to pray about it, and later accepted.

Elliff declared the enemies of revival to be a synthetic gospel, an unforgiving spirit, immorality, and casual Christianity.

In a question and answer time he was asked about the restructur-

ing of the SBC. He thought it was a good idea being fostered by men of prayer, he said. He was asked about the proliferation of seminaries and the issue of Calvinism and Southern Seminary. He declared that Al Mohler was a great man and had a real love and compassion for the lost. Elliff also spoke at Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth; Parkview Church, Greenville; Meadowview, Starkville; State Boulevard, Meridian; West Ellisville; Friendship, McComb; and Escatawpa near Pascagoula. Estimated total attendance was 215.

Want your church to grow? Set a goal, make it known

SOMERSET, Ky. (BP) — Church leaders committed to the numerical and spiritual growth of their congregations should set a yearly baptism goal and "plaster it on every swinging door in the church," according to Neil Jackson.

Quoting Proverbs 29:18, he said, "You have to have a vision."

Jackson, a retired senior growth consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board and author of numerous books related to church growth and outreach, addressed a group of about 65 church leaders gathered at First Church in Somerset — one stop in the weeklong Small Church Growth Tour sponsored by the Kentucky Convention's Sunday School Department.

Churches should learn from commercial advertising that repetition reinforces behavior, Jackson said. Companies are willing to spend \$1.5 million on a 30-second television advertisement during the Super Bowl because they believe it will affect viewers' behavior, he noted.

Similarly, if pastors choose as a goal to baptize 25 people in a year, "they should plaster a sign that says 'Baptize 25' on every swinging door in the church," he said. "It works."

After choosing a spiritual goal for baptisms, pastors should engage the entire congregation in reaching it, he added, suggesting that each department director be encouraged to set his or her own quarterly goal for new enrollees.

"Statistically, to be able to baptize one new person, you have to enroll three people," Jackson said. So Sunday School leaders should set a combined goal of at least 75 new enrollees in a year for the church to baptize 25.

Churches must reach out diligently from an updated prospect file at least as large as the Sunday School enrollment, Jackson added. "You'll go over the top with this principle," he said.

Thursday, April 11, 1996

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Names in the News

MURFREESBORO, N.C. (BP) — Stanley G. Lott of Pineville, La., was selected March 28 as the next president of Chowan College, Murfreesboro, N.C. Lott, 60, will become the 21st president in the 148-year history of the college, which is the second oldest of North Carolina's seven Baptist colleges and universities.

Richard Floyd is available to supply the pulpit and serve as interim pastor. He can be contacted by calling (601) 373-1306 (home) or (601) 371-0072 (office).

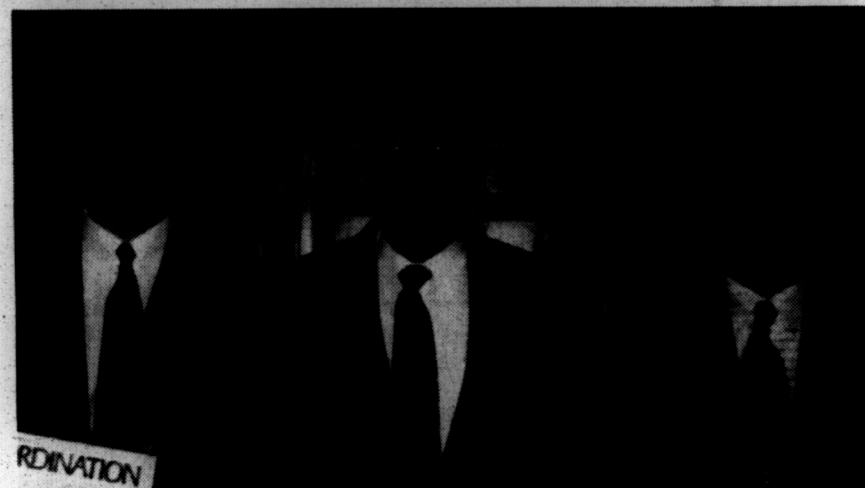
Miroslav Loncar, an associate professor of guitar at the Winters School of Music at William Carey College, defended his doctoral dissertation at the University of Southern Mississippi recently. Loncar is the first guitarist to be awarded a doctoral degree by any university in Mississippi. The title of his dissertation is A Survey of Compositions for Classical Guitar Written by Croatian Composers From 1945-1990. Loncar and his wife Natasa are natives of Croatia.

Mary Jean Padgett of Clinton has been appointed by Howell Todd, president of Mississippi College, as dean of the School of Nursing. Padgett, a Mississippi College alumnus who has 23 years of experience in nursing education, has been at Mississippi College since 1982. She has served as interim dean since June 1, 1995.



Padgett

John Duncan, assistant professor of accounting at Mississippi College, presented his paper, "Internal Control Systems in Churches: An Examination of the Effects of Church Size and Denomination on Systems of



Fredonia Church, Union County, recently ordained two new deacons. Pictured are Johnny Thompson (left); Joe Herndon, pastor; and David Jolly (right).

Internal Control," at a recent meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

Cecelia Rassier, a native of Jackson, will be presented in a guest recital by the Mississippi College Department of Music on April 25 at 8:15 p.m. in Aven Auditorium.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Mark Wingfield has been nominated to become editor of the Western Recorder, the weekly newspaper affiliated with the Kentucky Convention. Wingfield, 34, was unanimously approved for the post by the Western Recorder's board of directors April 2. The nomination by the Recorder's board must be confirmed by the KBC executive board May 6 to be effective. The Recorder is an agency of the KBC with its own board of directors to manage the newspaper's affairs and set its policies. However, a covenant agreement between the Recorder and the KBC stipulates that the KBC executive board must confirm by simple majority vote the person selected as editor by the Recorder board. Wingfield has been serving the Recorder as interim editor since last December, when the former editor, Marv



Concord Church, Booneville, recently awarded the 1996 Gerald C. Mauney Memorial Scholarship to Shane Crawford, student at Blue Mountain College. The \$500 scholarship is given annually in memory of Gerald Mauney, son of Mr. and Mrs. T.C. Mauney, who was killed in Vietnam. Shown presenting the scholarship is James Travis, head of the Bible Department.

Knox, became associate editor of the Baptist Standard in Texas. Wingfield joined the Recorder's staff in July 1991 as news director.

RTVC series examines "Morality in Media"

FORT WORTH (BP) — The Radio and Television Commission will be the first Southern Baptist agency to do a series of

three television documentaries on the subject of "Morality in Media."

The agency recently received its second \$50,000 grant from the Davidson Family Charitable Foundation for development of the series.

Jack Johnson, president of the RTVC, received the first \$50,000 grant last November. It was presented by Davidson Foundation advisory committee members Hilton T. Ray and James Stewart, both of Fort Worth.

The first "Morality in Media" documentary, to be aired by the NBC television network, is scheduled for completion this spring. The host will be John Schneider, former "Dukes of Hazzard" TV star who founded FaithWorks Productions, a San Antonio, Texas.-based film company dedicated to the production of quality family entertainment. Schneider said there was a

time in his life when he didn't want to have anything to do with people who used the word Jesus, but now he lists himself as an avid Christian committed to making a genuine difference for Christ in the world.

"There are very few shows on television today that I can watch with my children," he said. "Having kids changed my perspective of what I can and can't do on television. Frankly, I'm scared to allow my kids to watch TV alone. What TV is capable of planting in their minds is hard, if not impossible, to unlearn."

"Pollution is pollution, and prevention is better than rehabilitation."

Schneider said he is excited about his role in the first of the "Morality in Media" documentaries, especially the positive message it will send as to what Christians can do in developing family values media.



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TOWER OF PRAYER PROJECT MEMORIALIZES MISSIONARY: RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (BP) — A tower of prayer to be erected at a Baptist camp in the mountains near Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is to be a memorial to the late Rosalee Mills Appleby, a Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil from 1924-60. The cornerstone for the tower was laid during a doctrinal seminar at Camp Mount Moriah in November 1995. Among items placed in the cornerstone were Portuguese versions of Psalm 119:54 and Isaiah 56:7 and the Broadman Press book, **David Gomes: When Faith Triumphs** by Anne Washburn McWilliams of Clinton, retired associate editor of *The Baptist Record*, Mississippi Baptists' newsjournal. The book contains a chapter on the history of Mount Moriah and is dedicated to Rosalee Appleby, a Mississippi native. Appleby, who died in 1991 at age 96, went to Brazil with her husband David in 1924. A year later, he died after surgery for a stomach ulcer. A few hours after his death, Appleby gave birth to a son, David. Appleby stayed in Brazil 36 years, ministering through her writing, which included 24 books; children's work; and church starting, with 17 congregations still active. She lived in Canton, Miss., in retirement. For more information on the Tower of Prayer project, contact McWilliams, U.S. project coordinator, 1006 Dogwood Drive, Clinton, MS 39056.

MEDICAL RATES WON'T RISE JULY 1 IN ANNUITY BOARD PLAN: DALLAS — Rates for the Personal Security Program, comprehensive medical plan will not rise on July 1, the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention announced today. The medical plan, available to church employees and seminarians on an individual application, is reviewed each six months to determine if rates should be changed. Last January the rates were increased for the first time since July 1992. Joel H. Mathis, senior vice president for Insurance Services, said, "I am delighted our latest analysis of claims makes it possible to hold the line on rates for the entire year of 1996. The increase we applied Jan. 1 has proved adequate for our claims experience since the last review." Mathis said there would be another rate review in the fall for Jan. 1, 1997.

DRUG-INDUCED ABORTION MAY SOON BE AVAILABLE: WASHINGTON (BP) — Drug-induced abortion may become widely available in the United States by the end of 1996. By then, there even may be two drug combinations in widespread use for abortions early in pregnancy. On March 29, the Planned Parenthood Federation of America announced it hoped to offer this year a two-drug combination for women seeking abortions. On April 1, parties responsible for the American production of RU 486, a French abortion pill, said an application had been filed seeking approval from the Food and Drug Administration and it was hoped the drug would be available by the end of 1996. "Like the RU 486 abortion methods, this new drug cocktail can cause serious complications for the mother and kills a child with a beating heart," said Olivia Gans, director of American Victims of Abortion, a post-abortion outreach of the National Right to Life Committee. Southern Baptist ethics specialist Ben Mitchell said: "Can an abortion cocktail that kills the baby and forces her to be expelled from the mother's body really be good for the mother? Clearly, there have to be complications.... When you [aim] chemical bullets... at the developing infant, dire complications will necessarily result in some cases." Mitchell, consultant on biomedical and life issues for the Christian Life Commission, added: "No rational human being can continue killing other human beings without experiencing profound psychological complications."

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE GAINS AWAKENING CITIZENS: WASHINGTON (BP) — March 25, 1996, will not be remembered as a red-letter day for the biblical and traditional view of marriage. Not only did Colorado Gov. Roy Romer become the first governor to veto a bill which would have prohibited same-sex marriages, but the mayor of San Francisco officiated at a "wedding" for 175 homosexual couples on the first day of the city's same-sex marriage ordinance. The news may not be all bad for opponents of same-sex marriage, however. "Monday was a wake-up call," said Robert Knight, director of cultural studies at the Family Research Council in Washington, "but it was only the latest in a series of events that show how seriously the homosexual rights movement takes this issue. None of this is definitive, because people all over America are waking up to the threat and are responding."

CARVER SCHOOL STUDENTS OFFERED TRANSFER OPTIONS: LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Students who fear they may not be able to complete an accredited degree in the Carver School of Church Social Work may transfer to Louisiana State University (LSU), Southern Seminary President Albert Mohler announced March 21. In a letter to Carver School students who will not complete the master of social work degree at Southern this May, Mohler outlined three options for consideration. One of those options is to transfer to LSU, with Southern Seminary paying the difference between what the seminary charges for tuition and what LSU charges, he said. In addition, the seminary will provide a \$1,000 check for miscellaneous expenses to any student who transfers to LSU, Mohler said. LSU offers an accredited master of social work program and recently has developed a partnership with New Orleans Seminary.

Macedonia, Louisville: April 10-12; 7 p.m.; James W. Smith, Dover, Fla., evangelist; Louis Varner, Antioch Church, Winston County, music; Arnold Davis Sr., pastor.

Calvary, Eupora: April 14-17; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Marion Tumberlinson, pastor, preaching; Steve and Becky Carver, Starkville, music.

First, Aberdeen: April 14-17; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 11:50 a.m. and covered dish luncheon; Mon. and Tues., 7 p.m.; Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Cliff Matthews, Jacksonville, Fla., evangelist; Lee Gordon, Houston; Paul Matthews, pastor.

Shiloh, Oxford: April 14-17; services, 7 p.m. nightly; Mon.-Wed., 11 a.m. and lunch; Dennis Sewell, Laurel, evangelist; Thomas Huel Mosely, Mid America Seminary, Germantown, Tenn., music; Ronnie Mayes, interim pastor.

Calvary, Durant: April 14-19; services, 7 p.m.; Danny Dodd, Brookhaven, evangelist; David Cain, pastor.

First, State Line: April 14-17; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mike Moss, pastor of Trinity Church, evangelist; Hal

Gardner, music; Lavon Crane, pastor.

Springdale, Ripley: April 14-17; Kenny Digby, evangelist; Maurice Pinkston, pastor.

Military, Sumrall: April 14-17; Sunday, 10:45 a.m., noon meal, and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Eddie Bryant, evangelist; Danny Shows, music; Mike Aultman, pastor.

Dublin, Prentiss: April 17-21; Wed.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch, and 1:15 p.m.; John Sapp, Collins, evangelist; Mrs. Royce Bates, music; L.C. Anthony, pastor.

Eastabuchie (Lebanon): April 19-21; services, Fri., and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 9:45 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. worship, and covered dish dinner; Sam Jones, Pascagoula, evangelist; Don Burch, Petal, music; Arlie E. Spalding, pastor.

Richmond, Tupelo: April 21-24; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Glen Reeder, Locust Hill Church, guest speaker; Larry Montgomery, West Jackson Street Church, music; Sean Tutor Sr., pastor.

First, Terry: April 21-24; services, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.;

Paul Strahan, Petal, evangelist; Kimberly Thompson, First Church, Terry, music; Gowan Ellis, pastor.

Bay Vista, Biloxi: April 21-24; Sunday, 8:30 and 11 a.m., and 6:30 p.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., high attendance day; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Wayne Dubose, Birmingham, Ala., evangelist; Scott Lee, Pensacola, Fla., music; Jerry Watts, pastor.

Carmel, Monticello: April 21-24; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Marvin Howard, Meadville, evangelist; Stephanie Bowlin, Monticello, music; Ted Bowlin, pastor.

Juniper Grove (Pearl River): April 21-24; Kieth Manuel and Daniel Lee, Hattiesburg, evangelists; Phil Hanberry, pastor.

Homecomings

Puckett (Rankin): April 28; 10:30 a.m.; noon meal; Kermit Till, Brandon, guest speaker; Barry Ward, pastor.

Carmel, Monticello: May 5; 11 a.m.; noon meal; 1:15 p.m., music program. The Days; Mike Sutton, Tylertown, guest speaker; Ted Bowlin, pastor.

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By David Mitchell
Luke 15

Jesus was accused of committing social suicide because he did not associate with the right people. The Pharisees and Scribes, religious leaders during Jesus' day, complained that Jesus associated with publicans and sinners. In their mind it should be easy for any religious person to understand that you just did not hang out with tax collectors and sinners. In order to help them understand why he associated with these particular groups of people, Jesus told three parables, two of which we will consider. The drama in these parables is built on the tension of an attempt to find something that had been lost.

The lost sheep (vv. 3-4). Anyone who has lost anything can identify with the tension of the lost sheep. In our lives, our keys and remote control are most often the things we lose. Many times our lives come to a complete halt until the items are found. When they are found we are relieved.

As he told the parable, Jesus addressed the tax collectors and sinners. It was the Pharisees and Scribes who had the questions, but Jesus described his actions of associating with the outcasts. He began by telling a story that would have been familiar in Palestine. The shepherd who owned a hundred sheep began counting at the close of the day and found that one sheep was missing. The shepherd left the 99 and "went after" the one which was lost. The shepherd's efforts were fruitful, he found the sheep, lifted it on his shoulders, and brought it home. Considering the possibility that the sheep could have been devoured, the shepherd had a party to celebrate the finding of the sheep.

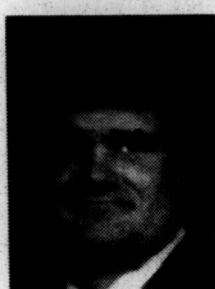
Jesus made the point of the parable clear. He said, "there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents," and possibly looking over at the Scribes and Pharisees and gesturing toward them with his hand over 99 righteous persons who do not need to repent." It is obvious that everyone needs to repent. The 99 represented, ironically, those who think they are righteous and have no need to repent. Jesus made it clear that when a sinner turns to God, heaven throws a party. The Old Testament warns not to associate with sinful people. Jesus' association with the tax collectors and sinners was so they might be offered salvation through repentance and faith. He did not associate with them to participate in their sin. The joy of heaven is what keeps Jesus associating with sinners.

The lost coin (vv. 8-9). The second parable was very similar to the first. Here a silver coin had been lost. We are not certain of the value of the coin, but it was probably equal to a day's wage for the average worker. The woman began looking with the thought in mind that "it must be in here somewhere." As she lighted a lamp and swept her house clean, we can almost hear her sigh of relief, "there it is." The woman also called her friends together for a party as they celebrated the discovery of the lost coin. Once again Jesus said there is "rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

These two parables are very similar. They both stress three key words: lost, found, and rejoice. The emphasis is on searching for the lost and celebrating their being found. Recovering a lost sinner can take diligent effort, but the effort is worth it when a sinner is found. Those who are without Jesus should know that God is diligently looking for them. Those who are the disciples of Christ should intensely engage in a search for sinners on behalf of God. Finding those who are lost and celebrating their being found is the priority point of the two parables. The purpose of the story is to prove that we should be willing to do whatever is necessary to find lost people who need to hear about Jesus; if it means associating with "sinners and tax collectors," that is what we should do. This story should encourage us to seek the lost and bring them to Jesus. When the lost come to Christ, verses 7 and 10 help us understand that we should rejoice, party, celebrate, and make merry over the salvation of one sinner. It is easy to see in these parables the value that every person has before God. We should have a specific plan for searching for the lost and celebrating their being found.

Mitchell is pastor of Van Winkle Church, Jackson.

Bible Book Edom brought down



By Clayton Littlejohn
Obadiah 1-21

Obadiah, which means "servant of Yahweh," is the messenger who pronounced the destruction of Edom as a nation. The book Obadiah is the shortest of the Old Testament, yet it is filled with the love of God for his people and his hatred of the sins of injustice. God's announcement of judgment against Edom and the restoration of Judah shows that God is sovereign and cares for his people. We Christians need to heed the principles and warnings of this book to avoid condemnation of our nation.

The deceitfulness of pride (vv. 1-4). This is not the same Obadiah in 1 Kings 18 who hid the prophets of God from wicked Ahab and Jezebel. All we know about Obadiah, the author of this book, is that he was a servant of God from Judah who was unafraid to announce God's message of condemnation on Edom for her sins of injustice to God's people. The "vision" (v. 1) of Obadiah was a declaration of judgment and was from God against Edom.

Edom is south of Judah, and is the area where the descendants of Esau settled. The hatred Esau had for Jacob was still embedded deeply in his descendants, and led them to harm Jacob's descendants on several occasions. For those acts of violence, Obadiah said, "We have heard a rumor (report) from the Lord, and an ambassador (messenger) is sent among the heathen (all surrounding nations), arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle." God was going to use the pagan nations surrounding Edom to destroy her. This shows us that even though a nation is pagan, God still controls them and can use them to carry out his plan.

In verse 2, Obadiah moved to the future and pointed out that Edom was small in number compared to the heathen. When God got through with them, they would be annihilated completely (v. 10). Because Edom was located in the mountains, they could easily hold off huge armies, and this led them to believe they were invincible. Pride does that to a nation, or a person. Pride refuses to admit its faults, or that it can't meet its own needs. Edom, filled with pride, needed to understand (Prov. 16:18), "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."

The destruction of human wisdom and power (vv. 8-10). Evidently Edom was known for her "wise men" and her "mighty men" and because of this, other nations seemed to fear her. Any nation is blessed that has those two sources, yet they will all pale when God's judgment comes. "Teman" was one of Edom's cities and probably residence of the wise men. "Mount of Esau" was the fortress the mighty men would occupy and protect. This is a reminder that no human wisdom or power can combat the wisdom and power of God. God eventually destroyed Edom completely.

The day of retribution (vv. 13-16). The Edomites had stormed the cities of God's people while they were practically defenseless and had taken their possessions (v. 13), and also set up road blocks to those Jews who were trying to escape with their lives. They made the Jewish people captive and took any possession they had with them. The apostle Paul said, "Be thou not deceived, whatsoever a man soweth, that shall be also reap" (Gal. 6:7). One day retribution will come on every nation and person. Man will reap what they sow — good or bad.

The deliverance of God's people (v. 17). The day will come when God's mercy on those who harm his people is over, and he will then destroy all of them. It has come already to some like the Edomites, and will come on all others at the time designated as "The Day of the Lord" (v. 15). He will then reclaim "Mount Zion" (Jerusalem) and give it back to his chosen people. He will make it a place of security and prosperity (v. 17). He will give back to the people everything that has been taken from them and will also unite the divided kingdom (v. 18). "Joseph" represents the 10 tribes of the Northern Kingdom, and Judah represents herself and the tribe of Benjamin. Not only will Israel get Mt. Zion back completely, she will also be given the land surrounding her (vv. 19-21). When God said he will bring judgment on sinful nations and people, we must believe he will.

Littlejohn is pastor of Ingram Church, Baldwyn.

Life and Work Thank God for you



By Linda Donnell
1 Thessalonians 1

Editor's Note: In the April 4 edition, The Baptist Record inadvertently published this week's Life & Work Sunday School lesson commentary. This lesson is correct for Life & Work, Sunday, April 14.

How thankful are you? William Law, an 18th century writer, said, "The greatest saint is not the one who prays and fasts the most or who gives the most. The greatest saint is the person who is always thankful to God...." Some would tell us that to have a continuously thankful heart could revolutionize our lives. That is to say, if we could live each day with a grateful sense of God's goodness continually on our minds, many of our thoughts and actions might be quite different.

The apostle Paul might agree. It is apparent that he rated thanksgiving highly (1 Thess. 5:18, 2 Cor. 4:15, 2 Cor. 9:11). His letter to the church at Thessalonica, which was written to encourage them in their work, began with gratitude. Evidence of God working in the lives of believers is indeed reason for thanksgiving.

For what you do (vv. 1-3). Paul shares authorship with Silas and Timothy in writing this, his first epistle. In addressing the people, he recognized them as being devoted and dedicated to "God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 1). God was the very atmosphere in which the church lived and operated. How many of our churches today might be able to share this distinction? Can outsiders see evidence of our total dedication to God? How?

Paul's opening greeting, "Grace and peace to you," showed a sincere affection toward its readers. He intended to bring joy and kindness with the use of the term "grace;" while "peace" carried the meaning of wholeness in the midst of struggle. These Christians had remained faithful in spite of severe suffering.

"We always thank God for all of you..." (v. 2). What a good feeling this statement must have established in the Thessalonian church! It is indeed a blessing to hear someone lift up our name in thanksgiving to God. Part of the challenge and privilege of being a Christian is remembering one another in prayer. Do you keep a prayer calendar? If so, do you remember to be thankful for Christians who touch and influence your life? Do you share your prayer thoughts with those for whom you pray?

Paul's expressions of thanksgiving were threefold: 1) work which is inspired by faith, 2) labor prompted by love, and 3) endurance founded on hope (v. 3). The body of believers had a true and living faith which resulted in work. Their love for God showed. It was not hidden. Because of their well-grounded hope of eternal life, their lives showed patience. This was the first of many times in which Paul connected the words "faith," "hope," and "love" (1 Cor. 13:13, Gal. 5:5). These three key ingredients should be evident in the lives of all Christians. They are spiritual muscles that should be used, developed, and stretched. How are they manifest in you?

What you are (vv. 4-7). Paul was not only thankful for what the Thessalonian Christians were doing, he was grateful to know that they had been chosen and called by God (v. 4). He had no doubt that the Holy Spirit was in those who preached to this church and in those who welcomed the Word as well. The gospel presented was not just fancy words to which the people merely listened. Because it was filled with power, it affected their hearts and consequently showed forth in their lives (vv. 5-6). The very fact that the Thessalonians received the gospel with joy even though they were greatly persecuted gives evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit (v. 6).

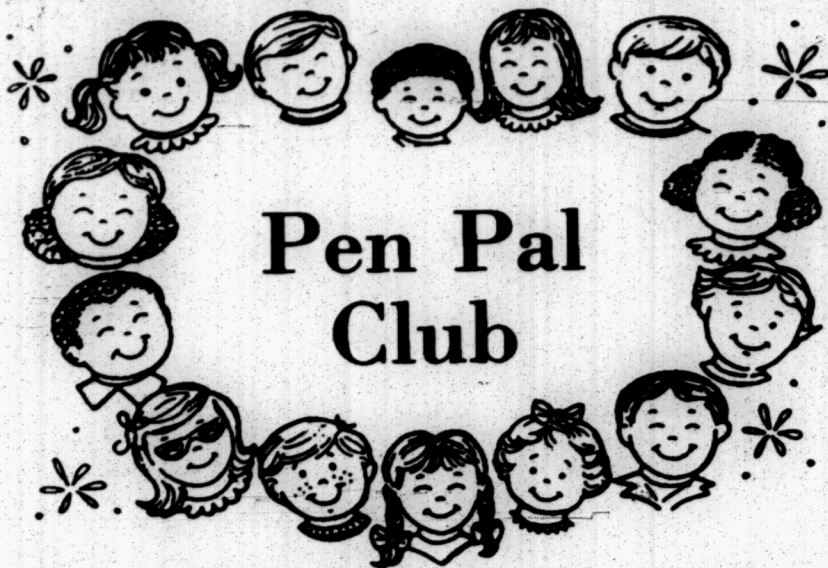
The reception of the gospel was not the stopping point with the new believers — it was a new beginning. The effect of their response extended beyond their own lives into the lives of others. They became models to believers in two large provinces: Macedonia and Achaia (v. 7). How far does your Christian influence extend?

For what others say (vv. 8-10). The effects of the faith of the Thessalonian church became known abroad. They totally committed themselves to the living God, gave up their idols, and began looking toward the return of Christ. This is the picture of true conversion.

Christians today also have opportunity to impact the world in which they live. What evidence can you offer that God lives in you? Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for those believers you know who are Christian models for others to follow.

Donnell is a member of First Church, Hattiesburg.

CHILDREN'S PAGE



Pen Pal Club

How to submit letters to be published in the Pen Pal Club:

1) Get your church's address.
2) Ask your church secretary if it is all right for you to receive your first Pen Pal Club letter at the church address.

3) Write your letter and sign it with your church's address instead of your home address (like Deidre Dewitt's letter, at right).

4) When you get permission, mail your letter to:

The Pen Pal Club
The Baptist Record
P.O. Box 53
Jackson, MS 39205

5) After you get your first Pen Pal letter, give him or her your home address and you can begin to get your letters at home.

We like to publish your letters. Please follow the instructions above so **The Baptist Record** can be a safe and fun way for you to write to other Christian kids.

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Tiffany Carpenter. I am 10 years old. My hobbies are playing with my dog named Precious and just being with my friends. I go to Chester Church. I am in the fifth grade. A boy or girl pen pal will do, so please write to me:

Rt. 1, Box 33A
Weir, MS 39772

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Howdy! My name is Alisha Ashmore. I'm 14 in the eighth grade, and home schooled. I'm a Christian and I've been baptized. I go to Liberty Church. My hobbies are swimming, talking on the phone, basketball, baseball, kickball, reading, talking with my friends, writing, playing with my dogs, and listening to my radio. I have five dogs and six cats. I have one brother named Brian and he is 11. I love country and Christian music. A boy or girl (a year older, same age, or as young as 9) will do. Write any time to:

P.O. Box 1442
Zachary, LA 70791

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Anell Pullen. I am in the third grade and I am 9 years old. I like riding my bike, and rollerblading. I would like a girl pen pal. I would like a picture of you. Send to:

182 CR 225
Woodland, MS 39776

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Ashley Patch. I am 9 years old. I am a Christian. I go to Covenant Christian School in

Mobile, Ala. I have a brother. I have a dog. My hobbies are swimming, reading, and athletic sports. Please write me back. I would love to hear from you:

2524 Buckboard Ct.
Mobile, AL 36695

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Deidre Dewitt. I am 10 years old and in the fourth grade. I go to Topeka Tilton Junior High, and I go to Providence Church. My hobbies are riding my bike, talking on the phone, swimming, and playing basketball. I would like a girl pen pal, but it doesn't matter. If you would like to be my pen pal, write to me:

c/o Providence Baptist Church
Rt. 1, Box 217
Jayess, MS 39641

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Becky Turner. I am 9 years old and in the third grade. I attend Carthage Elementary School. My birthday is Sept. 11. I am a member of Covenant Church. My dad is the preacher. My hobbies are reading, writing, and drawing. I was home schooled K-4 through first grade. Now I am going to a school where my mom works. I am in a gifted class. I have two cats, Blackie and Angel. I have a dog named Dixie. I have two sisters and one brother. I was born in Florida. Please send a picture. Write to:

Rt. 1, Box 293-A
Carthage, MS 39051

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hey! My name is Cody Coleman. I am 11 and 1/2 years old and in the fifth grade. My hobbies are hunting, fishing, playing with my friends, and also playing baseball and football. I have two dogs — an Alaskan husky and a Dalmatian — and also three cats. I go to New Providence Church. I would like for a boy or a girl to write me. I will be glad to read your letters and write you back!

9068 Hwy. 28 West
Hazlehurst, MS 39083

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Jessica Jackson. I am 12 and in the seventh grade. My hobbies are swimming, watching TV, cheering, playing the piano, and singing. I have three animals: two dogs, Dusty and Jake; one cat, Midnight. I have one brother, Adam. I attend Galilee First Church. My favorite animal is rabbits. Please send a picture and write to:

3636 Lewis Lane
Gloster, MS 39638

Mississippi Baptists love to read about children's ministries! If your church has information or photographs of children's ministry events, please send them to: Children's Page Editor, **The Baptist Record**, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please include name, address, and telephone number of a contact person.

Celebrate Bernard's birthday and have fun at the carnival for Bernard and you.



The annual birthday party for Bernard, the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center pediatrics mascot, will be held on Saturday, April 20, from 1-4 p.m. at Strawberry Patch Park on Old Canton Road in Madison.

Bernard, perpetually four years old, celebrates his birthday each year with a free, giant community party. All children and their parents are invited to the party.

The day's activities will feature information and service tables staffed by MBMC departments, child fingerprinting by the Madison Police Department, and a fire engine display by the Madison Fire Department.

Other attractions include a dunking booth, space jump, Bernard bean bag throw, and plenty of cotton candy and soft drinks.

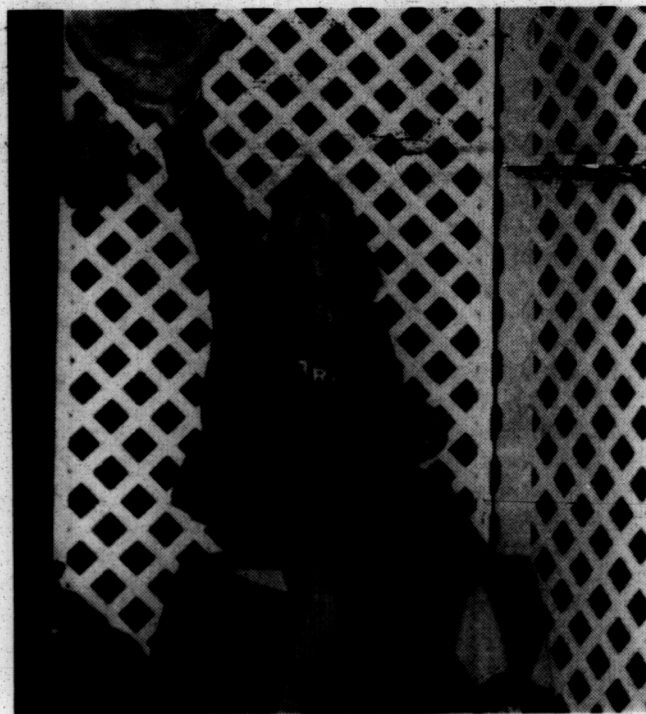
Bernard and his "friend," MBMC certified child life specialist Angela Hester, travel to events and churches throughout Mississippi as ambassadors for the medical center.

With his likeable image and bandage-covered eye, Bernard has become well-known to thousands of children and their parents around the state.

For more information on Bernard's birthday party, contact the MBMC public relations office at (601) 968-5135.

Whoopin' it up

GAs of Woolmarket Church, Biloxi, enjoyed a Bible Camp Rodeo in February. With RAs and Mission Friends, a total of 20 children attended. The GAs planned the rodeo based on the missionary work of Pat Branch, the subject of the girls' January study. The GAs performed skits and songs, rode a pony and a "bucking bronco" (at left), put on a lasso exhibit, and served a meal of hot dogs and "sommores" around a bonfire. The Bible Camp Rodeo was coordinated by GA leader Julie Lewis. Paul Crowley is pastor.



Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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RDQ GVXRQBSQX KI RDQ TSLZUKG KI ZKU: WAR
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GSZDR LKR XQQ, CLU DQCBSLZ RDQV GSZDR
LKR ALUQBXRLU.

OATQ QSZDR: RQL

This week's clue: I equals F.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Daniel Nine: Eight.

Baptist Record

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